

COUNTY SOCIETIES

Alameda County Medical Association (as reported by Dr. Pauline S. Nusbaumer, secretary)—The Society met November 21, 1921, in the Oakland Health Center with sixty members present. Dr. J. Craig Neil in his paper, "Disturbances and Treatment of Defects of the Vaginal Outlet," stated that the pelvic fascia is the true supporting structure of the pelvic viscera. Any disturbance of this fascia may result in various degrees of prolapse. Cystocele is really a hernia and usually causes the most troublesome symptoms. It may exist with or without a prolapse of the uterus, and should be dealt with independently.

During the child-bearing period, the fascia should be overlapped as in the treatment of hernia in other parts of the body, and the uterus suspended through an abdominal incision. After the child-bearing period, the best results are obtained by a vaginal pan-hysterectomy with a suspension of the vaginal vault by suturing the broad ligaments and the utero-sacral ligaments together, and an overlapping of the fascia of the anterior vaginal wall to support the bladder.

That the fascia about the rectum is not so well defined, but is available and should be utilized in the radical repair of rectocele.

Dr. J. F. McMath in his paper on "Dental Diagnosis," stated that the dentist is best qualified to render a diagnosis of dental diseases of the oral cavity. But that it is not within the scope of the dentist to advise for or against the removal of teeth when they are only suspected of being the foci of an infection, in such cases the dentist and physician should consult before advice is given.

He also stated that interpretation by radiologist should in no case be given to the patient, but should be considered as only an aid to the dentist.

The doctor believes that the physician should try to familiarize himself with the general problems of the dentist.

Dr. W. H. Strietmann in his paper, "Some Observations in Regard to the Achylia Associated With Pernicious Anemia," has never seen a case of pernicious anemia without achylia. Secondary anemias of any grade were usually accompanied by a diminished gastric function. The doctor reported one case, in which there was a typical picture of pernicious anemia, and which, after four years, has had no remission, and the blood count, on the day of the reading of this paper, was normal. A secondary case, in which the blood findings were those of a secondary anemia, during the course of eight months went into a pernicious type, ending fatally.

A number of other cases of varying degrees were reported, in all of which the treatment of the achylia was the only measure employed—all of which showed marked improvement.

These papers provoked full and interesting discussions.

Dr. William H. Irwin of the Oakland Emergency Hospital staff and Miss Lucile Pallady were married December 4.

The Baby Hospital of Oakland has just completed its campaign for help, and have received \$20,000 for the support of its charitable work for babies.

M. J. Holt was convicted in the court of Superior Judge George Samuels for practicing chiropractics without a license. According to news-

paper accounts, Holt has been engaged in his business in San Leandro and had taken over the work of J. E. Shah-Za-De, a "Persian chiropractor," who is now in the Alameda County jail. Holt was sentenced to fifty days in jail, declining to pay the \$100 fine, which would have obtained his release. According to the newspapers, Holt was paroled by the Alameda County Parole Board, consisting of District Attorney Decoto, Sheriff Frank Barnett and Chief of Police J. T. Drew of Oakland.

According to the Oakland Tribune, Alfred Bach, proprietor of a newly opened rest-cure sanatorium, was arrested for violation of the State Medical Act, section 17, making it a high misdemeanor to practice medicine or advertise as a doctor without a license from the State. Permission for Bach to operate his sanatorium was granted by the Alameda County Council after a heated argument.

Sarah I. Shuey

On November 22, 1921, the Alameda County Medical Association was called upon to mourn the loss of one of its honored members in the death of Dr. Sarah I. Shuey.

Dr. Shuey was, perhaps, the most widely known woman both medically and philanthropically in the East Bay cities. She graduated with the first class in medicine in the University of California in 1876.

Dr. Shuey was the only woman to have held the presidency of the Alameda County Medical Association, and was also president of a former Board of Health of the city of Oakland.

When the campaigns for certified milk and a probation officer were launched in this city, Dr. Shuey was among their staunch supporters, giving substantial financial aid to the latter.

At the time of her death she was a member of the California State Medical Society, the A. M. A., the Merritt Hospital staff, and attending physician for girls in the Alameda County Detention Home.

In recognition of Dr. Sarah I. Shuey's splendid work in medicine, a movement is well under way to establish a scholarship for women in medicine at the University of California by public subscription, and will have the support of Dr. Shuey's many friends.

Placer County (as reported by Dr. R. A. Peers, secretary)—The annual meeting of the Placer County Medical Society was held in Auburn, Saturday evening, December 3, in the Masonic Temple. Dr. E. E. Ostrom, President of the society, presided.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Dr. C. J. Durand, Colfax; vice-president, Dr. H. N. Miner, Blue Canyon; secretary-treasurer, Dr. R. A. Peers, Colfax.

In addition, in conformity with the suggestion of the officers of the State society, Dr. E. E. Ostrom of Loomis, was elected as assistant secretary. Dr. E. E. Ostrom was elected as delegate to the 1922 State meeting at Yosemite. Dr. F. E. McCullough of Lincoln, was elected as alternate.

The literary program of the evening consisted of an address on Cardiac Irregularities, by Dr. Leroy H. Briggs, Assistant Clinical Professor of University of California Medical School, and a paper on Equilibrium in Vertigo, by Dr. Frederick C. Lewitt, Instructor in Surgery, at the University of California Medical School. The subjects presented were admirably handled, and evoked much interest and discussion.

Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement (as reported by Dr. Geo. Joyce Hall, secretary)—At the regular monthly meeting for November Dr. E. C. Turner discussed "Uterine Displacements and Causes." He gave a classification of displacements, including retroflexion and prolapse; description of uterine ligaments; causes of displacements and demonstrated by use of the lantern, the seven displacements, depending upon the ligaments involved. He then took up flexions, lateral displacements and inversions. Dr. C. B. Jones discussed the paper.

"The Indications for Operation in Uterine Displacements" was the subject of Dr. G. N. Drysdale's paper. He divided the displacements into five classes and outlined the indications for operating these patients. Dr. Drysdale's paper was discussed by Drs. Rulison, Lindsay, Pitts and Hall.

Dr. J. W. James presented a paper upon the "Result of Operations in Uterine Displacements," which was discussed by Drs. Pitts, Thomas, C. A. Foster, Drysdale, Yates, Turner.

Dr. W. W. Cress, Sacramento, Dr. Smith, McMullin, Folsom, Dr. Christian, Galt, Dr. Stoltz, Sacramento, were elected members of the society.

The applications of Drs. Clattenburg and Azevedo were read for the usual course.

A committee of three was appointed by the Chair to take up the question of properly considering and wording a change in the present constitution so that the secretary be elected from the floor.

San Diego County Medical Society (reported by Dr. Robert Pollock)—The papers read before the San Diego County Medical Society at recent meetings comprise the following:

October 25—"Observations on One Thousand Cases of Fractures," with outline of modern treatment of the various types of fractures, by M. C. Harding, M.D.; "The Legislative Situation as it Concerns the Medical Profession and the Public Health of California," by Walter V. Brem, M.D., of Los Angeles.

November 8—"Fractures of the Skull," by E. H. Crabtree, M.D.; "The Clinical Value of Basal Metabolism," by R. J. Pickard, M.D.; "Secondary Radical Mastoid Operation," with report and presentation of cases, by C. W. Brown, M.D.; "Renal Diabetes," with report of case, by S. A. Durr, M.D.

November 22—"Indications for Cesarean Section," by T. F. Wier, M.D.; "Mastoiditis," by F. A. Burton, M.D.; "Myelogenous Leukemia," case report by M. M. Doria, M.D.

Sister Mary Michael, Mother Superior of St. Joseph's Hospital, recently celebrated her golden jubilee, representing fifty years of faithful service as a nun. The physicians of the staff recognized the occasion by presenting a substantial memorial to the hospital, and at a dinner tendered by the sisterhood to the staff, Dr. T. O. Burger, on behalf of the latter, delivered an address of appreciation of the faithful services and self-sacrificing devotion to the sick on the part of Mother Mary Michael and the members of the sisterhood to which she belongs.

The position of laboratory technician at the county hospital has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Maxwell, and Dr. Moser has been appointed to the position of house physician; he began his services November 1. He is a graduate of Rush Medical College.

The annual election of both the medical society and medical library association are conducted on the same day, December 13, polls being open all day.

San Francisco County Medical Society (as reported by Dr. LeRoy H. Briggs, secretary)—The society held four regular meetings and one special meeting during the month of November.

The special meeting was to hear an address by Dr. Wm. R. P. Emerson of Boston, on "Nutrition of School Children." The various programs show that an unusual group of papers was presented, but abstracts on only one of these papers has been presented to the editor.

Dr. S. L. Haas discussed the subject of "Fractures in Transplanted Bone," at the meeting of November 15. Dr. Haas stated that in studying the healing of fractures in transplanted bone, one must take into consideration two processes; namely, the healing of a fracture and the fate of bone after transplantation. Each one of these processes consist of an intricate system of regenerative changes, and when there is a demand for both to functionate at the same time, the question naturally arises as to whether there will be sufficient energy for the repair of a fracture in a transplanted bone, in addition to that required for the regeneration of the transplant itself.

In order to determine this question, an entire metacarpal or metatarsal bone was removed from a dog's foot, fractured in the center, and then reimplanted in the normal position or transplanted to the muscles of the back.

In seventeen observations there were only three complete failures of union, or lack of evidence of proliferation at the end of the fragments. Firm union occurred in five of the reimplanted bones and in five of the bones transplanted to muscle. The period of observation extended from 33 to 116 days.

Conclusions—1. Transplanted bone possesses sufficient inherent reparative powers to form a union of a fracture in a transplant, without the aid of any extraneous osseous elements. This is especially emphasized in the case of union of fractured bones imbedded in muscle.

2. A fracture will unite in a bone in which there has been a complete destruction of its blood supply. From this fact it would appear that disturbances in blood supply to one fragment of a fractured bone cannot be considered as a definite cause for non-union.

Sonoma County Medical Association (as reported by Dr. N. Juell, secretary)—The society met on December 8, with twelve members and one visitor present and twenty-five members absent.

Dr. Karl L. Schaupp read a paper on "Obstetrics," and led a discussion of the subject during the evening.

As this was the annual meeting of the society, the following officers were elected: President, Lafayette J. Wilson, Sebastopol; vice-president, Henry S. Rogers, Petaluma; secretary, N. Juell, Santa Rosa; treasurer, R. M. Bonar, Santa Rosa; censors, J. W. Cline, F. O. Pryor and J. Temple, Santa Rosa; delegate, W. C. Shipley, Cloverdale; alternate delegate, J. H. Shaw, Santa Rosa.

The Sonoma County newspapers are very properly agitating the need of a hospital for Santa Rosa. One paper states that, as a matter of fact, a hospital is as much a community affair as a church, a school or a courthouse. It ought always to belong to the community and be controlled by it. True, it is a workshop for the medical profession, but so is a school for teachers, a courthouse for lawyers and churches for preachers. It is strictly a public institution, a people's affair,

operated for the people's benefit, and should never be made a place for personal aggrandizement by any part of the medical or surgical profession.

Southern California Medical Association (as reported by Dr. Michael Creamer)—The sixty-fifth regular semi-annual meeting of the Southern California Medical Association was held in Los Angeles, Friday and Saturday, November 4th and 5th. Members were in attendance from all of the counties in the southern portion of the State.

Friday morning was devoted to clinics at the various hospitals, Saturday morning and the afternoon sessions being devoted to a scientific program given by our local men and members. Many excellent and unusual papers were given, followed by interesting discussion.

Dr. Alonzo Englebert Taylor, Director Food Research Institute, Stanford University, spoke on "The Practitioner's Conception of the Dietetics." Dr. Herbert McLean Evans, Professor of Anatomy, University of California, Berkeley, and Charles A. Kofoed, Professor of Zoology of the same University, gave the Saturday evening program. Dr. Evans' subject was "Interrelation between Menstruation and Ovulation." Dr. Kofoed spoke on "Protozoan Infections of the Human Digestive Tract." The evening sessions were much enjoyed by the members of the profession and such of the laity as were interested in these subjects. A vote of thanks was given by the society to these men for the excellence of their presentation.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Dr. William Duffield, Los Angeles, president; Dr. Robert Pollock, San Diego, first vice-president; Dr. Herbert A. Johnston, Anaheim, second vice-president; Dr. Egerton Crispin, Los Angeles, secretary-treasurer.

The spring meeting will be held in San Diego, April, 1922.

A joint meeting of the society with the Western branch of the National Urological Society and Urological Section, was held on November 17, at Normal Hill Center. The following program was given:

Vesical Neck Obstructions and Their Relief. Wilbur Parker, M.D.

A Modification of the Differential Functional Test with Phenolsulphonephthalein. Anders Peterson, M.D.

Some Experiences in the Pathology and Treatment of Impotence and the Sexual Neuroses in the Male. H. A. Rosenkranz, M.D.

Intermittent Albumen, Its Etiology and Treatment. Lantern Slides. Alexander H. Peacock, M.D.

Merced County Medical Society (as reported by Dr. Brett Davis, secretary)—The December meeting was held on the 8th with Drs. Fountain, Davis, Lilley, Mudd, Parker and Kohl present. Much of the time of the evening was taken up in a discussion of the fee schedule. Dr. C. W. Kohl presented a paper on "Lobelia, Its Characteristics and Uses in Medicine."

This being the annual meeting there was an election of officers, and the present officers were re-elected to serve during 1922.

During the fall there have been twelve cases of diphtheria with seven known carriers, and six cases of scarlet fever.

Criminal Abortion

Recent inquiries of and correspondence with the office of the State Secretary appear to indicate the advisability of reviewing briefly the situation regarding criminal abortion. Penal Code, Section 275, reads as follows:

"Every woman who solicits of any person any medicine, drug, or substance whatever and takes the same, or who submits to any operation, or to the use of any means whatever, with intent thereby to procure a miscarriage, unless the same is necessary to preserve her life, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison not less than one nor more than five years."

It is inspiring to read the Hippocratic oath which has been morally binding upon every physician of the world for more than 2000 years. The Principles of Medical Ethics, under which every ethical physician operates, also is quite specific and definite as to the proper attitude of the individual physician or organizations of physicians on this important question.

Honest boards of managers of hospitals, with the full support and co-operation of physicians' organizations, as well as hospital organizations, are safeguarding honesty and making these criminal procedures more and more difficult in an ever increasing number of hospitals.

Recently the State Board of Medical Examiners issued a statement on this subject that ought to be interesting and instructive to physicians. It is as follows:

"The commission of an abortion is a felony, and under the criminal statutes, all felonies are directly under the investigation and prosecution of local district attorneys.

The Medical Practice Act provides that the license of the individual may be revoked for the procuring or aiding or abetting or attempting or agreeing or offering to procure a criminal abortion. The legal technicalities involved in the determination of what constitutes 'proper evidence' under the criminal code makes it a most difficult problem for the Board of Medical Examiners to handle.

It is necessary to make the following showing:

1. A woman to testify that the alleged abortion was either attempted or committed on her.

2. It must be proven by substantiated evidence that said woman was pregnant at the time she visited the alleged abortionist.

3. It must be proven by corroboration of a third party that the alleged abortionist actually performed the abortion.

4. If a dying statement is taken of the individual alleged to be dying as a result of a criminal abortion, the code requires that a statement must be taken by a representative of the district attorney's office; the statement must open with the expression on the part of the testatrix that she is about to die or that she knows she is going to die, for without such a statement the courts will not admit in evidence a dying statement.

5. The penal code further provides that the individual who approaches another soliciting that an abortion be performed, is compounding a felony; i. e., is equally guilty with the individual who is alleged to have committed the abortion."